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Attention Assignment Editor: Opportunity for Story Localization

Regents Approve 2003-04 LEQSF Awards

BATON ROUGE - The Board of Regents today awarded nearly \$22 million from the Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund (LEQSF) to colleges and universities statewide to fund a variety of valuable educational and research programs for FY 2003-04.

“Louisiana can be proud of the accomplishments of the Educational Quality Support Fund,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie. “Year-in and year-out, this all-but-unique program, provides critical funding for a broad range of efforts that improve the quality of our colleges and universities. These awards help make possible everything from the purchase of up-to-date laboratory equipment to endowments for departmental chairs, and they contribute significantly to the economic vitality of our state.”

The program is funded through a permanent trust fund approved by voters in a 1986 constitutional amendment. The original \$540 million payment was part of a settlement between the state and federal governments over disputed off-shore oil and gas royalty (“8(g)”) funds. By 2003, the trust fund had risen to nearly one billion dollars. Twenty-five percent of the earnings from the fund each year is reinvested in the fund. The Legislature appropriates half of the remaining interest to the Board of Regents for higher education and the other half to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for grades K-12. The Board of Regents component of the fund is known

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Regents Award Funds

ADD THREE

as the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF).

The Louisiana Constitution provides that the Board of Regents may use the fund to support any or all of the following programs: 1) carefully defined research efforts, 2) endowment of chairs for eminent scholars, 3) enhancement of the quality of academic research or agricultural departments or units; and 4) recruitment of superior graduate students.

The Board's approval today establishes the following award distribution:

Endowment of Chairs for Eminent Scholars - Total funding: \$3,200,000

Institutions receiving funding in this category are LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans (\$800,000 for two \$1M chairs); LSU A&M (\$800,000 for two \$1M chairs); Tulane University Health Sciences Center (\$800,000 for one \$2M chair); LSU Law Center (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair), and Dillard University (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair).

Research and Development - Total funding: \$5,642,157

Institutions receiving funding in this category include LSU Agricultural Center, LSU A&M, LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport, Louisiana Tech, Loyola, Northwestern, Southeastern, Tulane, University of LA at Lafayette, UNO, and Xavier.

Enhancement of the Quality of Departments/Units - \$9,616,893

Institutions receiving first-year funding under the **Traditional Enhancement Program**

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Regents Award Funds

ADD TWO

(\$7.1 M total) include Bossier Parish Community College, Dillard University, LSU Agricultural Center, LSU- Alexandria, LSU - Baton Rouge, LSU - Eunice, LSU - Shreveport, LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport, Loyola, Nicholls, Northwestern, Nunez Community College, Southern University A&M, Southern University - New Orleans, Southern University - Shreveport, Tulane, Tulane Health Sciences Center, University of LA at Lafayette, University of LA at Monroe, and UNO.

Institutions receiving funding under the **Undergraduate Enhancement Program** (\$1.6 M total) include Bossier Parish Community College, Centenary, Delgado Community College, Dillard, LSU - Alexandria, LSU - Eunice, LSU - Shreveport, McNeese State, Nicholls State, Southeastern, Southern - New Orleans, and Xavier University.

Institutions receiving funding under the **Two-Year Enhancement Program** (\$908,880 total) include Baton Rouge Community College, Bossier Parish Community College, Delgado Community College, Fletcher Technical Community College, Louisiana Delta Community College, Nunez Community College, River Parishes Community College, and South Louisiana Community College.

Also under this category is funding for **Endowed Professorships**, which will be awarded at a later date.

Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students - Total funding \$3,501,000

Institutions receiving funding under the **Traditional Graduate Fellows Program** include

(More)

Regents Award Funds

ADD ONE

LSU A&M, LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport, Tulane University, Louisiana Tech, Southern University A&M, Tulane, Tulane University Health Sciences Center, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and UNO.

LSU A&M also received funding under the **Graduate Fellowships For Teachers Program**

The BoRSF funds are awarded through a competitive, selective review process, incorporating the expertise of more than 400 out-of-state reviewers. For FY 2003-04, 928 proposals from 38 campuses were considered. The proposals represented a total requested first-year funding amount of \$71,706,369.

Since 1987, the BoRSF has generated \$551.8 million in new external funding for Louisiana higher education from federal, private and other non-support fund sources. An additional \$214 million has been generated for Endowed Chairs and Professorships, creating 196 one-million-dollar chairs and 18 two-million-dollar chairs at 20 universities across the state, as well as 1,267 endowed professorships at 34 campuses.

For additional, campus-specific information on the LEQSF awards (including amounts) visit the Regents website at www.regents.state.la.us and click on “What’s New at the Board of Regents.”

In other action, the Board received reports on Small Capital Projects and Capital Outlay Status and approved amendments to the Capital Outlay Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

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